

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

April 24, 2014

**5:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mayor James Calnon, Councilors Rachelle Armstrong (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Dale Dowdle (W3), Paul O’Connell (W4), Becky Kasper (W5), Joshua Kretser (W6)

**Absent:** None

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**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on April 10, 2014 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk’s Office.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Kretser

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

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**2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the weeks ending April 16, 2014 in the amount of \$ 252,194.24 and April 23, 2014 in the amount of \$ 259,165.95 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

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**3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the weeks of April 10 – April 23, 2014
- Report from the Building Inspector’s office April 22, 2014
- Report of the Work Session of the Common Council held on April 16, 2014
- Statement from the City Clerk’s Office of all monies received during the month of March 2014 in the total amount of \$19,883.55
- Report from the Parking Violations Bureau for March 2014
- Finance Department Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the months of March 2014
- Report of Public Hearing held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on April 21, 2014

**RESOLVED:** That the reports as listed are hereby ordered received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk’s Office.

By Councilor Dowdle; Seconded by Councilor O'Connell  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**4. CORRESPONDENCE OR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None**

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**5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the bills Audited by the Common Council for the weeks ending April 18, 2014 in the amount of \$ 757,226.22 and April 25, 2014 in the amount of \$ 2,881,154.31 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

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**6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:**

**Doug Butdorf** Chairman of the Plattsburgh Community Garden Group spoke about their upcoming season.

**Mayor Calnon** presented his \$500 check to the Plattsburgh Community Garden Group.

**Superintendent of Recreation Steve Peters** spoke about the Plattsburgh Half Marathon taking place on April 27, 2014. They have 832 registered.

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**7. OTHER ITEMS:**

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Contract # 2012-07 "Hauling of Sludge for WPCP" be extended for a one year period with Drummac Septic. The total estimated budget costs are \$130,000.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong  
Discussion: None  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted  
Follow up Action: None

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**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the Municipal Lighting Department be permitted to proceed with the write-off of unpaid final bills for the period December 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 in the amount of \$2,034.26. The percentage of write-offs for this period is .12%.

By Councilor Dowdle; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**C. RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL 25, 2014 ANZAC DAY FOR PTS AWARENESS**

**Whereas**, an Australian soldier, Captain John McKay, suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress, recently traveled to the North country and passed away atop nearby Scarface Mountain, and

**Whereas**, Anzac Day is celebrated each April 25<sup>th</sup> in Australia and New Zealand, to remember all their soldiers and veterans, especially those who fought in the Australian New Zealand Arm Corps (ANZAC) during WWI in what is now Turkey, and

**Whereas**, Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) is an affliction suffered by many combat veterans returning “home,” whether they be American veterans or those of our allies, such as Australia and New Zealand, of which Captain McKay was one, and

**Whereas**, April 25<sup>th</sup> offers us in the North Country an opportunity to specifically emphasize the importance of PTS awareness and our common need and duty to assist our returning veterans in their transition to life away from combat, then therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Common Council of the City of Plattsburgh does hereby declare April 25, 2014, as “Anzac Day for PTS Awareness,” and encourages its community to join others in the North Country and throughout the world to increase its awareness of Post-Traumatic Stress suffered by our combat veterans and to assist in their need for understanding and treatment.

By Councilor O’Connell; Seconded by Councilor Kretser

Discussion:

**Councilor O’Connell** said he received an email from Mayor Rabideau of Saranac Lake asking to propose this resolution.

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**D. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENT OF CITY CLERK TO SYLVIA PARROTTE EFFECTIVE MAY 5, 2014.**

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**E. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CHIEF TO RANDAL STONE EFFECTIVE APRIL 25, 2014 PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A 12 WEEK PROBATIONARY PERIOD.**

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**F. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATION COUNSEL TO DEAN SCHNELLER EFFECTIVE APRIL25, 2014 EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2017.**

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**G. THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF REBECCA KASPER AS MARRIAGE OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH EFFECTIVE APRIL 25, 2014 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2017.**

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell and Kretser voted in the affirmative. Councilor Kasper recused herself)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**H. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the Mayor be authorized to sign a subordination agreement for a property located at 25 Bridge Street owned by North Country Food Co-op, Inc.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Kretser  
Discussion:

**Mayor Calnon** said they will be adding 1 or 2 employees.

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper and Kretser voted in the affirmative. Councilor Armstrong recused herself)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**I. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the Mayor is authorized to sign Engineering agreement with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for Design Services for Oklahoma Avenue Slope Stabilization Project; FEMA 1993 DR NY, PW# 1852.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
Discussion:

**Councilor Armstrong** said happy to see going forward.

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**8. TRAVEL REQUEST:**

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Bill Treacy Manager MLD to attend the “NYMPA 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting” in East Syracuse, NY from May 20-21, 2014 at an estimated cost not to exceed \$324.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kelly  
Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Assessor Kathy Livingston to attend the “Appraisal Principles and Procedures” in Ithaca, NY from July 14 -18, 2014 at an estimated cost not to exceed \$1,624.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor O’Connell  
Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:**

- 1. Councilor Kelly offers the following resolution to augment existing snow removal and parking regulations and not replace them.

**Resolved** that the City Clerk of the City of Plattsburgh will create a list of volunteers who will shovel snow for property owners who are very ill, elderly, disabled or otherwise physically unable to maintain their own sidewalks following winter snow and ice events. In addition, the recipients of these services must demonstrate to a reasonable degree that they are financially incapable if paying reasonable and customary fees for said services.

**Further Resolved**, that the City Clerk of the City of Plattsburgh will create a list of paid snow and ice removers for any property owner who wants to hire these services, with the understanding that it will be the property owners responsibility to pay the providers of said services at a fair price;

**Further Resolved**, that the City of Plattsburgh will create a webpage and brochure for snow and ice removal and snowstorm parking tips and will use any other means at its disposal to convey said information; including but not limited to utility bills and other widely distributed notices.

**Councilor Kelly** said this was a team effort by the entire Council and community. Excited about it

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**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Councilor Kasper** announced the first Quality of Life Committee meeting will be held on April 29, 2014 in the meeting room at 5:30pm and is a public meeting. Address ideas for beautification of the city.

**Councilor Dowdle** asked who's responsibility the wood Kiosk on the corner of Durkee and Bridge Street is.

**Corporation Counsel John Clute** we do have a downtown city worker and we can follow up with Mike Brodi and see if we can give that a little more attention.

**Councilor Dowdle** volunteered to maintain it and spruce it up, sweep around it.

**Mayor Calnon** said along those same lines. Jesse Feiler called me the other day asking those very same questions so you have a partner, I think.

**Mayor Calnon** reminded everyone there will be a MLD Board meeting immediately following this meeting. Some good news we received a letter from the United Way that the total contributed by City employees was over \$5,300. The Fire Department gave the most money per department and most per employee. He asked Chief Stone to extend his thanks to the entire force and congratulate them on their effort. He also thanked all the other City employees who contributed.

**Councilor O'Connell** congratulated new Fire Chief Randy Stone. We had 3 great candidates for the Fire Chief and know it's a hard decision. His father was an Acting Fire Chief and he would be really proud to see Randy got the job. As I said in my campaign, he would be stirring like crazy if he knew there wasn't a Fire Chief in the City of Plattsburgh. Congratulations Randy.

**Mayor Calnon** a great thing about tonight's meeting is we ended up with 3 new Department heads. 2 of them are here. It is very exciting and very good news for everybody. A little bittersweet because not everyone who has been here for a long time is going to remain here. John we were going to get you a gold watch but we couldn't afford it so we are going to give you your name plaque. John has been Corporation Counsel for many years. And obviously a big part of what happens at this table as well as throughout the community. He is going to remain in the community and going to remain involved in things. And will be close by to help Dean with the transition. I'm going to miss you an awful lot and thank you very much John.

**Corporation Counsel John Clute** said it's been a very satisfying experience. I know Dean will do a great job for you and we are going to work together to make this transition as smooth as possible.

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**11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None**

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor O'Connell; Seconded by Councilor Kasper  
Roll call Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:00pm**